



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Thomas E. Pank

Examiner: Upton

Serial No. 10/040,611

Art Unit: 1724

Filed: January 9, 2002

For: FILTERING SYSTEM FOR
RUNOFF WATER

Adjustment date: 01/30/2004 SDIRETA2
12/30/2003 SDENBDB1 00000123 10040611
01 FC:2201 -129.00 OP

AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL

Honorable Commissioner
for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Official Letter of September 5, 2003,

Applicant responds as follows:

11/25/2003 AMONDAF1 00000091 10040611

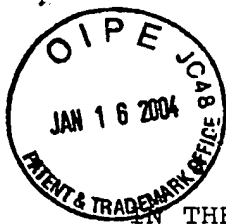
01 FC:2201

129.00 OP

I hereby certify that I mailed
the original of this document
by U.S. first-class mail on this
20th of November 2003, to the Hon.
Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box
1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

William D. Hall

Repin. Ref: 01/30/2004 SDIRETA2 0009523100
DAH:500555 Name/Number:10040611
FC: 9204 \$129.00 CR



DEPT: REF
Room 307

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Thomas E. Pank

Serial No. 10/040,611

Filed: January 9, 2002

For: FILTERING SYSTEM FOR
RUNOFF WATER

USPTO
OFFICE

Examiner: Upton

Art Unit: 1724

CLAIM FOR REFUND

Honorable Commissioner
for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In the above case Applicant has filed two amendments that were not entered and is submitting a third proposed amendment.

Applicant requested that the fee of \$129 (that was paid with the first amendment that was not entered) be charged to a credit card. The patent office did so charge that fee of \$129 to the credit card even though the amendment was not entered, as shown by the enclosed statement rendered by Bank One (see Exhibit A) attached.

Applicant submitted a check (a copy of which is Exhibit B) with the second amendment that was not entered. Applicant does not know if this second check was cashed.

Applicant requests that if for any reason a fee is

due or if there has been an overpayment that the fee be
charged or credited to account 50-0555.

Respectfully submitted,



William D. Hall
Register 14,311
Attorney for Applicant

10850 Stanmore Drive
Potomac, MD 20854
Tel. (301) 983-5070

Statement for account number: 4266 8121 2517 6800

BANK ONE.

New Balance \$1,525.11 Payment Due Date 01/20/04 Past Due Amount \$0.00 Minimum Payment \$32.00

Amount Enclosed \$ 00 Make your check payable to Bank One
New address or e-mail? Print on back.

4266 8121 2517 6650 0000 3200 0016 2511 9

CARDMEMBER SERVICE
P.O. BOX 15153
WILMINGTON DE 19885-5153

MR WILLIAM D HALL
LOUISE S HALL
10630 STANMORE DR
POTOMAC MD 20854-1522

7167652

1:5000 160 281: 20 1 2 1 25 1 766 50 70

BANK ONE.

Statement Date: 11/27/03 - 12/26/03
Payment Due Date: 01/20/04
Minimum Payment Due: \$32.00

CUSTOMER SERVICE
U.S. 1-800-945-8006
Español 1-888-448-3308
TDD 1-800-955-8060
Outside U.S. call collect
1-302-594-6200

VISA ACCOUNT SUMMARY

Previous Balance \$1,133.81
Payments, Credits - \$1,133.81
Purchases, Cash, Debits + \$1,525.11
Finance Charges + \$0.00
New Balance \$1,525.11

Account Number: 4266 8121 2517 6800
Total Credit Line \$15,000
Available Credit \$13,314
Cash Access Line \$3,000
Available for Cash \$3,000

ACCOUNT INQUIRIES
P.O. Box 9450
Wilmington, DE 19809-0050

PAYMENT ADDRESS
P.O. Box 15153
Wilmington, DE 19885-5153

VISIT US AT:
www.bankone.com

REWARDS SUMMARY

POINTS EARNED THIS PERIOD:
PURCHASES 1,425
FINANCE CHARGES 0
BONUS POINTS 0
TOTAL POINTS EARNED THIS PERIOD 1,425
PREVIOUS POINT BALANCE 6,735
POINTS REDEEMED THIS PERIOD 0
TOTAL POINTS 8,360
POINTS DUE TO EXPIRE ON 12-2005 8,360
POINTS EXPIRED THIS PERIOD 0

TRANSACTIONS

Trans Date	Reference Number	Merchant Name or Transaction Description	Amount
			Credit Debit
11/24	243012BAQ0X1QJ0R1	US PATENT/TRADEMARK OF ARLINGTON VA	\$128.00
11/25	241247BA4P8SHTRW	CASUAL CORNER GROUP#8341 BETHEBDA MD	86.19
11/25	2461043AA232007EJ	GIANT FOOD INC #198 POTOMAC MD	41.54
11/26	2451043AB03TE3Q1Y	EDKRD DRUGS #8806 POTOMAC MD	37.96
12/01	2461043AF3327F5YV	GIANT FOOD INC #198 POTOMAC MD	17.52
12/02	2440140AQ016MN2H	USPS 1080060854 POTOMAC MD	14.80
12/02	2440301AG077EF4NL	BETHEBDA CO-OP CABIN JOHN MD	88.38
12/03	2441800AJV08Q878	AMATO INDUSTRIES 301-5853220 MD	228.88
12/04	2418407AK01QXZ5Q	SAFEWAY STORE00009488 POTOMAC MD	111.53
12/04	2418407AK01QYEQ	SAFEWAY STORE00009488 POTOMAC MD	1.84
12/04	2460216AM08VBJOPB	SHELL OIL 8308881401 BETHEBDA MD	22.18
12/07	2448501AM0XWER1FX	BETHEBDA CO-OP CABIN JOHN MD	19.14
12/08	2461043AP03PP4HYR	D J BARRONS 800-844-0422 MA	256.30
12/11	2418407AS08100470	SAFEWAY STORE00009456 POTOMAC MD	83.04
12/11	2444500A6LT0TVV0Z	NORDSTROM 80823 BETHEBDA MD	21.00
12/12	2418407AV08101QDP	SAFEWAY STORE00009456 POTOMAC MD	24.77
12/13	7420683AW010T73EG	PAYMENT - THANK YOU	1,133.81
12/16	2444673AZX363YNW	MACY'S EAST 8078 MCLEAN VA	100.00
12/17	2441800B0A81H08B3	AMATO INDUSTRIES 301-5853220 MD	267.56
12/20	2461043B3D3T84H8	HECHTS 88 BATHESDA MD	81.80

FINANCE CHARGES

Category	Periodic Rate 30 days in cycle	Corresponding APR	PERIODIC RATE(S) AND APR(S) MAY VARY		Transaction Fees	FINANCE CHARGES
			Average Daily Balance Previous Cycle	Current Cycle		
Purchases	.02737%	9.99%				\$0.00
Cash advances	.05272%	19.24%				\$0.00
Total finance charges						\$0.00

Effective Annual Percentage Rate (APR): N/A

Grace Period Type: A (Please see back of statement for the Grace Period explanation.)

The Corresponding APR is the rate of interest you pay when you carry a balance on purchases or cash advances.
The Effective APR represents your total finance charges - including transaction fees such as cash advance and balance transfer fees - expressed as a percentage.

EX. A.

RECEIVED IN THE U.S. PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

Thomas E. Pank
Serial No. 10/040,611
Filed: January 9, 2002
For: Filtering System for Runoff Water

Amendment After Final
Extension of Time (if necessary)
and Calculation of Fees
Check for \$129.00

WDH/bh

**WILLIAM D. HALL
LOUISE B. HALL**
10850 STANMORE DR.
POTOMAC, MD 20854-1522

Date 12/23/03 1899 66-109/550 48

PAY to the
Order of Commissioner for Patents \$ 129.00

One hundred twenty-nine ⁰⁰/₁₀₀ Dollars

SANDY SPRING BANK 17801 GEORGIA AVE. OLNEY, MD 20832
www.sandyspringbank.com
Your Financial Future Begins Here.

For Pank S.N. 10/040,611 Beverly H. Hall

⑆055001096⑆ 0100087337⑆ 1899

© Charles American DECC

Ex. B



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Thomas E. Pank

Examiner: Upton

Serial No. 10/040,611

Art Unit: 1724

Filed: January 9, 2002

For: FILTERING SYSTEM FOR
RUNOFF WATER

EXTENSION OF TIME
AND PAYMENT OF FEES

Honorable Commissioner
for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Applicant requests a one or two month extension of time, if necessary. Applicant's attorney submits that no extension of time is necessary since Rev. 3 of the "Flyer for Mailing With all Office Actions by all TC's" entitled "REVISED AMENDMENT PRACTICE" appears to give a "set period" to respond after Applicant sends a boni fide attempt to comply with the new rules. Applicant's first attempt to comply with the new rules was timely and hence no extension was necessary. Applicant's second attempt to meet the Examiner's requirements was promptly made after the Examiner acted on the first attempt and this third attempt is being made promptly after the Examiner's telephone call rejecting

the second attempt and also was prior to a formal requirement.

If however, an extension is necessary, please charge account 50-0555.

Further, a fee of \$129.00 or more is due for the larger number of independent claims. Applicant has paid this fee twice before but if it is nevertheless still due, please charge account 50-0555.

If at any time a fee is due or if there has been an overpayment, please charge or credit account 50-0555.

Respectfully submitted,



William D. Hall
Register 14,311
Attorney for Applicant

10850 Stanmore Drive
Potomac, MD 20854
Tel. (301) 983-5070



PATENT APPLICATION

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THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

US PATENT AND TRADEMARK
OFFICE

Thomas E. Pank

Examiner: Upton

Serial No. 10/040,611

Art Unit: 1724

Filed: January 9, 2002

For: FILTERING SYSTEM FOR
RUNOFF WATER

AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL

Honorable Commissioner
for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Official Letter of September 5,
2003, Applicant responds as follows:

I hereby certify that I mailed
the original of this document
by U.S. first-class mail on this
15th day of January 2004, to the
Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box
1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

William D. Hall

William D. Hall

1/15/04
(date)

PAID
1954
JAN 10 1954
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Current Status of the Claims

Claims 1 to 20 incl. (cancelled)

21. (currently amended) A filtering system comprising:

an inlet for receiving liquid to be filtered,

a reservoir fed by said inlet,

an outlet for receiving fluid that overflows said reservoir,

a plurality of adjacent filter cells fed by said reservoir,

each filter cell having:

(a) at least first and second layers of filtering material,

(b) one of which layers receives water from said reservoir,

and allows said water to pass to the other layer,

(c) the other of said layers having two vertical

[[horizontal]] sides one of which sides is adjacent said one layer,
and

(d) a drain adjacent the other said side of said other
layer, and

an outlet for filtered water fed by said drain,

said cells being circular and concentric.

22-25 (cancelled)

26. (currently amended) A filtering system as defined in
claim [[25]] 21, in which said cells are not only circular and
concentric with each other, but are complete circles extending 360
degrees.

27. (previously presented) A filtering system as defined in claim 21, in which each layer of each cell is circular and concentric with all other layers of said cells.

28. (previously presented) A filtering system as defined in claim 27, in which each of said layers has top and bottom ends and two sides,

said one layer being open at one end to receive liquid from said reservoir and having a fluid blockade at its other end, said one layer also having a filtering material which is coarse as compared to the filtering material in the other layer,

said other layer having one of its said ends adjacent said reservoir and a fluid blockade at each of its said ends so that fluid passes from said one layer through said other layer to said drain.

29. (previously presented) A filtering system as defined in claim 28, in which a single outlet receives the fluid that overflows said reservoir and also receives the fluid from said drains.

30. (previously presented) A filtering system as defined in claim 29, in which there are more than two of said cells.

31. (previously presented) A filtering system as defined in claim 21, in which said reservoir is below said cells and has a conduit that extends vertically upward to thereby apply sufficient fluid pressure to the fluid in said reservoir to force said fluid

under pressure through said cells, and

an output drain adjacent said second side of said second layer.

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32. (cancelled)

33. (previously presented) A filtering system as defined in claim 31, in which each layer of each cell is circular, and concentric with all other layers.

34. (previously presented) A filtering system as defined in claim 33, in which said drains and any fluid that overflows said reservoir, feed a common outlet.

35. (previously presented) A filtering system as defined in claim 34, in which there are more than two of said cells.

36. (previously presented) A filtering system as defined in claim 35, in which each of said layers has top and bottom ends and two sides,

said one layer being open at one end to receive liquid from said reservoir and having a fluid blockade at its other end, said one layer also having a filtering material which is coarse as compared to the filtering material in the other layer,

said other layer having one of its said ends adjacent said reservoir and a fluid blockade at each of its said ends so that fluid passes from said one layer through said other layer to said

drain.

37-40 incl. (cancelled)

41. (currently amended) A filtering system comprising:
an inlet for receiving fluid to be filtered,
a reservoir fed by said inlet,
an outlet for receiving fluid that overflows said reservoir,
and

a filter cell fed by said reservoir,
said filter cell having:

(a) at least first and second layers of filtering material,
said first and second layers having a common porous sidewall,

(b) the first of which layers receives fluid from said
reservoir and allows said fluid to pass through said porous
sidewall to the second layer,

(c) a drain, said second layer and said drain having a
common porous sidewall,

said porous sidewalls comprising a material for preventing
passage of filtering material therethrough while allowing passage
of fluid therethrough,

~~A filtering system as defined in claim 39,~~ in which there
are at least two of said cells and in which one of said cells
completely surrounds another cell in at least one plane.

42 and 43 (cancelled)

44. (currently amended) A filtering system comprising:
an inlet for receiving fluid to be filtered,
a reservoir fed by said inlet,
an outlet for receiving fluid that overflows said reservoir,

and

a filter cell fed by said reservoir,
said filter cell having:

(a) at least first and second layers of filtering material
said first and second layers having a common porous sidewall,

(b) the first of which layers receives fluid from said
reservoir and allows said fluid to pass through said porous
sidewall to the second layer,

(c) a drain, said second layer and said drain having a
common porous sidewall,

said porous sidewalls comprising a material for preventing
passage of filtering material therethrough while allowing passage
of fluid therethrough,

~~A filter cell as defined in claim 39,~~ in which said drain
surrounds said layers in at least one plane.

45 and 46 (cancelled)

47. (currently amended) A filtering system comprising:
an inlet for receiving fluid to be filtered,
a reservoir fed by said inlet,
an outlet for receiving fluid that overflows said reservoir,
and

a filter cell fed by said reservoir,
said filter cell having:

(a) at least first and second layers of filtering material,
said first and second layers having a common porous sidewall,

(b) the first of which layers receives fluid from said
reservoir and allows said fluid to pass through said porous
sidewall to the second layer,

(c) a drain, said second layer and said drain having a
common porous sidewall,

said porous sidewalls comprising a material for preventing
passage of filtering material therethrough while allowing passage
of fluid therethrough,

~~A filter cell as defined in claim 39,~~ in which said layers
and drain are ~~not only~~ cylindrical and concentric ~~but and~~ said
drain surrounds said layers in at least one plane.

48 to 52 incl. (cancelled)

53. (amended) A filtering system, comprising:
a first filtering media,
a second filtering media that is different than said first
media,

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a first porous barrier that allows fluid, but not filtering media, to flow through it, separating said first and second filtering media,

a drain,

a second porous barrier separating said drain from said second filtering media, said second porous barrier allowing fluid to flow through it from said second filtering media to said drain but not allowing filtering media to pass through it, and

an inlet for feeding fluid to be filtered to said first filtering media,

~~A filtering system as defined in claim 49, wherein said first filtering media has two sides,~~

said second filtering media being located adjacent both of said two sides,

said first porous barrier extending between said first and second media along both of said two sides.

54 and 55 (cancelled)

56. (currently amended) A filtering system, comprising:

a first filtering media,

a second filtering media that is different than said first media,

a first porous barrier that allows fluid, but not filtering media, to flow through it, separating said first and second filtering media,

a drain,

a second porous barrier separating said drain from said second filtering media, said second porous barrier allowing fluid to flow through it from said second filtering media to said drain but not allowing filtering media to pass through it, and

an inlet for feeding fluid to be filtered to said first filtering media, and

a reservoir having a tray feeding fluid to be filtered to said first filtering media, said tray having an overflow outlet,

~~A filtering system as defined in claim 55,~~ in which said first filtering media has two sides and said first porous barrier and said second filtering media extend along both of said sides, so that fluid in said first filtering media may pass out both of its sides to said second filtering media.

57. (currently amended) A filtering system comprising:

a first filtering media having two sides,

first and second porous barriers each of which has a first face and a second face,

said first face of said first barrier covering one of said sides and the first face of the second barrier covering said other said side,

a second filtering media having a first face covering the second face of said first barrier, said second filtering media having a second face,

~~a filtering media covering the second face of said second~~

~~barrier,~~

a third porous barrier that receives fluid from and covers
said second face of said second filtering media,

a first drain that receives fluid that has passed through
said third porous barrier,

a third filtering media having one face covering the second
face of said second porous barrier, said third filtering media
having a second face,

a fourth porous barrier that receives fluid from and covers
said second face of said third filtering media, and

a second drain that receives fluid that passes through said
fourth porous barrier.

58. (previously presented) A filtering system as defined
in claim 57, in which said second and third filtering media are
interconnected and therefore comprise a continuous filtering media.

59. (previously presented) A filtering system as defined
in claim 58, in which said first filtering media is elongated and
has two ends,

a fifth porous barrier covering one of said ends and

a filtering media covering said barrier that covers said one
end.

60. (previously presented) A filtering system as defined
in claim 59, in which said first, second and fifth porous barriers
comprise one continuous barrier.

61. (previously presented) A filtering system as defined in claim 57, in which said second and third filtering media and said drains are circular and concentric.

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62. (previously presented) A filtering system as defined in claim 57, in which one of said drains surrounds, in one plane, all of the other elements of said claim 57.

63. (previously presented) A filtering system as defined in claim 57, in which said porous barriers comprise a geotextile material that is fine enough to retain said second and third filtering media.

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NOV 19 2003

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REMARKS

Claims 21, 26-31, 33-36, 41, 44, 47, 53, and 56 to 63 incl.
are in this case if this amendment is entered.

Allowed claim 21 has been amended to correct a minor error.

Claims 26-31 and 33-36 have been allowed.

Claims 41, 44, 47, 53, 54 and 56 were indicated, by the
Examiner, as allowable if rewritten in independent form. This has
been done.

Claim 57 was indicated allowable if amended to be readable
on the disclosure. The error in claim 57 was that the third
filtering media was recited twice. The first of these two
duplicate recitals has been cancelled. A drawing which shows how
claim 57 reads on the disclosure is attached. Each element of the
claim which is identified on the attached drawing is fully
described in the detailed description of the specification.

This is a summary of a telephone interview with the Examiner
on November 18, 2003. Prior to the interview the undersigned faxed
a proposed draft amendment to the Examiner. The Examiner requested
a few minor changes in the draft which have been made.

PATENT

Respectfully submitted,

2004 JUN 21
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OFFICE

William D. Hall

William D. Hall
Register, 14,311
Attorney for Applicant

10850 Stanmore Drive
Potomac, Maryland 20854
Tel. (301) 983-5070



PAGE 1

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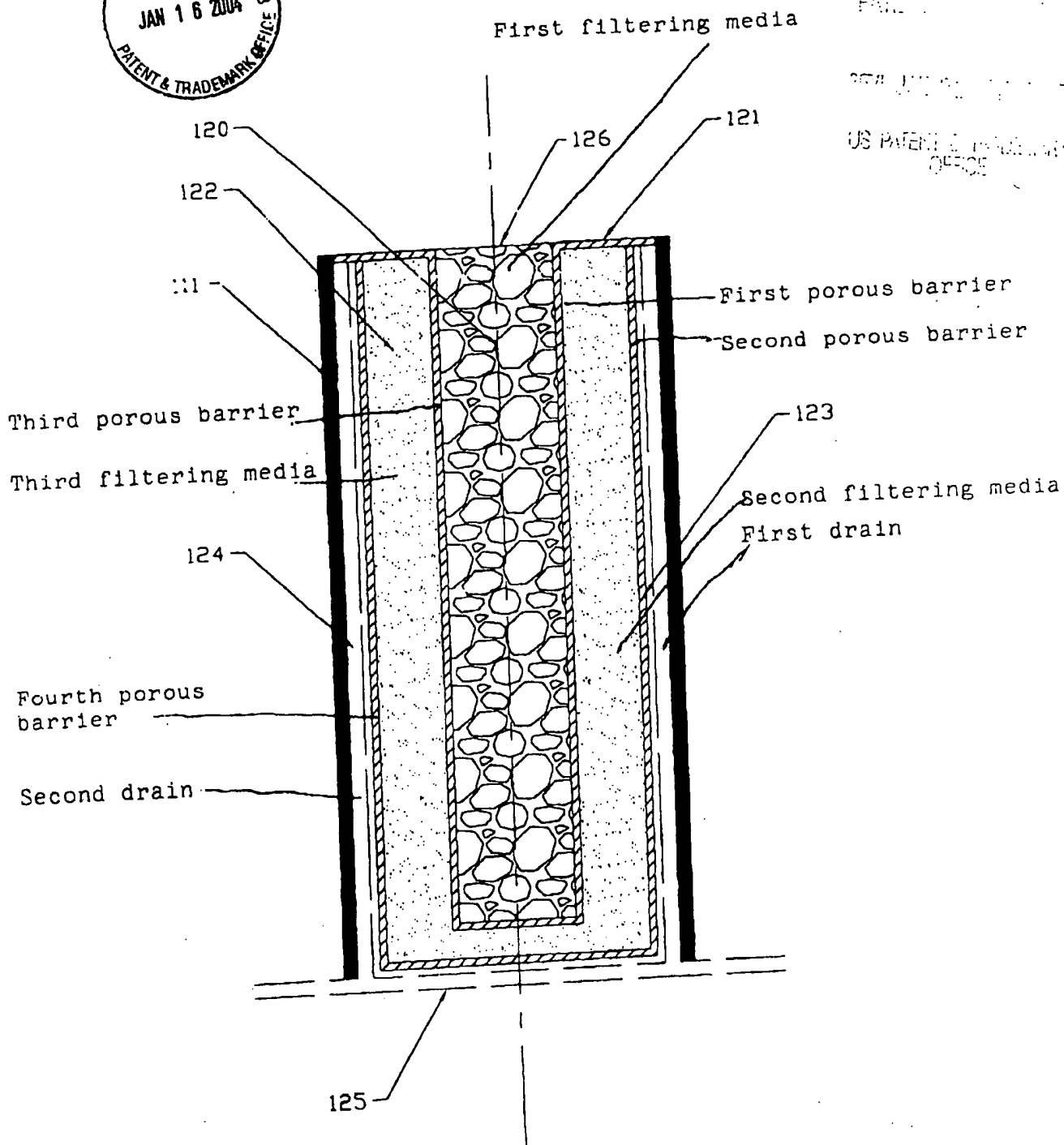


FIGURE 5